



## County of San Diego Planning & Development Services

### January eBLAST

#### Self-Service Reports Webpage



Customers can use our new [Self-Service Reports](#) webpage to run reports which provide general property information to aid in building plan preparation, development and environmental information for discretionary permits, or print an invoice from the comfort of their home or office. Our various online reporting tools are available all in one spot.

You can easily find the link on any of our webpages on the right side of the screen under the Popular Services Box.

In each report box, there is a step-by-step instructions and a brief description of what information is provided on how to run the report. Click on the box for the desired report to take you directly to the parameter input screen to execute and download the selected report. Newly added reports include: *Property Summary Report*, *Initial Study Research Packet report (ISRP)* and *New/Completed Project Planning Applications*.



The latest report released was the New/Completed Project Planning Applications that provides details such as the permit type, location, decision, and planning area for each application that is submitted or closed during a user-specified timeframe.

This is one of the many improvements our Performance Improvement Team (PIT) has implemented in an effort to help our customers and staff.

#### PDS Adds MasterCard & Visa as Online Payment Options

#### Board of Supervisors

GREG COX  
First District

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Second District

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#### Planning & Development Services

MARK WARDLAW  
Director

DARREN GRETHER  
Assistant Director

CLAY WESTLING  
Deputy Director



Planning & Development Services (PDS) has expanded its online payment options to include MasterCard and Visa credit cards. Adding the ability to pay permit fees, inspection fees, and fines associated with code citations and civil penalties via credit card gives customers more options to choose from when making online record payments. This new payment option decreases costs and increases time savings for customers who no longer need to wait in line to submit payment to the County Permit Center cashier.

MasterCard and Visa options are available via the County's Citizen Access Portal to PDS customers with balances not exceeding \$500. There is no transaction fee for these online credit card payments.

The convenience of online payments has proven popular with customers since PDS introduced an electronic check (e-check) payment option in the summer of 2013. The e-check option remains available with an associated \$2.25 transaction fee. Immediate payment via the Citizen Access Portal will allow customers to continue to process business without disruption at their convenience.

## Code Compliance Comes To The Rescue!



**Before**



**After**

Several concerned neighbors called PDS Code Compliance staff to report their neighbor who was storing junk, garbage, and a partially dismantled truck on his property. One neighbor could readily see the debris through his back yard fence so he couldn't enjoy his yard. After a site inspection to confirm the property's condition, Staff issued a Warning telling the owner to clean his property. The neighbor was very happy when he could use his back yard again!

## 2015 Application Period Open for Sunrise Powerlink Fire Mitigation Grants

## did you KNOW?

That at one time Bonita was also known for its lemon groves?

In 1871, Hiram M. Higgins settled in Bonita and planted over 2000 trees on his property. His groves were so successful he sold his trees to other growers like Henry Ernest Cooper, who named his orchards Bonita Ranch after a local pond called Bonita Laguna. The name stuck, and the area remains Bonita to this day.

## ONLINE SERVICES

### Citizen Access Portal

Research property information and permits. Apply for some permits online.

### Self-Service Reports

A list of available reports for public use along with a description of the information included on each report is provided below.

### GIS Maps

Determine the zoning and characteristics of properties with our web-based mapping tool.



Eligible homeowners located within specific areas near the Sunrise Powerlink corridor may now apply for grant money to improve the wildfire resistance of their structures and property.



#### The Sunrise Powerlink Fire

Mitigation Grants, funded by San Diego Gas & Electric as part of the transmission line's construction approval, promote upgrades to current building and fire code provisions addressing wildfire protection. The program will distribute up to \$2,137.68 per qualifying parcel toward the following three types of fire mitigation measures:

- Creating sufficient defensible space around habitable structures and along roads and driveways.
- Improving the ignition-resistance of habitable structures by retrofitting or replacing roofing material, windows, doors, eaves, attic vents, decks, patio covers, and/or fencing.
- Larger-scale defensible space and structural fire prevention projects benefitting a larger population or community.

The [grants program website](#) includes complete eligibility information, application instructions, and building permit requirements for any upgrades. The 2015 application period ends March 6, and all work shall be completed by July 17.

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## Coastal Zone Planning Grant Awarded to the County



On November 12, 2014, the Coastal Commission awarded a planning grant to the County to update the Local Coastal Program (LCP) for the portion of the County within the coastal zone. The LCP covers land in the community of San Dieguito and includes San Dieguito Park. The purpose of the LCP is to guide development within the coastal zone, provide ground rules for future development and protect coastal resources.

With an updated and certified LCP, the County will be able to assume responsibility for issuing coastal development permits, which will streamline the

development review process for property owners by eliminating the need to go to the Coastal Commission for approval. The LCP update will commence in the next few months and be completed in 2017. Questions about the LCP update can be directed to Noah Alvey at [noah.alvey@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:noah.alvey@sdcounty.ca.gov) or (858) 694-8846.

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## PDS Staff Learn How to Plan & Build Trails the Right Way

PDS trails staff participated in a 2-day trail education and building event at the [Crest Ecological Preserve](#) hosted by the Earth Discovery Institute and presented by the San Diego Mountain Bike Association, in association with the International Mountain Bike Association Trail Care Crew Trail. Other participants included San Diego Parks and Recreation Department staff and jurisdictional staff from throughout the region.

The land manager training program emphasized land preservation techniques and methods to integrate trail development in a sustainable manner. The program stressed the need to balance preservation and access as equal parts of the equation. A successful land management approach allows trails to function sustainably while fulfilling public expectations and preserving natural resources. The second day concluded with participants re-routing a trail in the Crest trail system to improve sustainability and so volunteers could gain trail building experience.



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## Welcome to the PDS Team!



**Andrew Spurgin**, *Chief*  
Advance Planning Division

Andrew joins the Advance Planning Division as Chief after leaving the City of Georgetown, Texas as the Planning Director. He has 15 years of experience administering and supporting planning and development programs in various public agencies. Previously, he worked for the City of San Antonio, Texas as a Planning Manager providing policy analyst support to the Director and managing a development ordinance for the City's planning area. In addition to his professional experience, Andrew has a Masters in Community and Regional Planning from the University of Texas and a Bachelor's degree in Metropolitan Studies with a focus in Urban Planning from New York University. We are excited to have Andrew as part of our leadership team.



**Peter Eichar**, *Land Use Environmental Planner III*  
Project Planning Division

Peter is a certified planner, with planning experience spanning over 19 years. He leaves the California Tahoe Conservancy as an Associate Environmental Planner to join PDS. Peter earned a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resources Planning from Humboldt State University.



**Darin Neufeld**, *Land Use/Environmental Planner III*  
Project Planning Division

Darin is a certified project manager and environmental planner with over seven years of experience managing environmental and urban planning projects. Darin earned a Masters in Urban History from San Diego State University and a Bachelor's degree in History from Point Loma Nazarene University.



With the knowledge and experience Darin and Peter bring to the County; they are sure to be outstanding additions to PDS and the Project Planning team.

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January 2015

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